



United States Coast Guard

Marine Inspection Office Europe



Lylantse Plein 1 Box 189
2908 LH
Capelle a/d IJssel
The Netherlands

Phone: +31 (0) 10 442 4458
Fax: +31 (0) 10 450 4752
acteurinspections@uscg.mil

MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN (MSIB) 02-08

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Inspection Procedures for Life Saving Appliances

The purpose of this USCG Activities Europe Advisory is to provide a standard for submitting an application for inspection and scheduling procedures for life saving equipment. All life saving equipment products are to be tested or inspected in the presence of an USCG Marine Inspector and meet the requirements of applicable standards in order to be approved and certified for installation on board U.S. flagged vessels in accordance with the Certificates of Approval. The manufacturer is to submit an application for inspection of any life saving equipment required to be tested or inspected in the presence of a USCG Marine Inspector.

I. Procedures for approval

- Approvals for prototype equipment design are granted by Coast Guard Headquarters, Lifesaving and Fire Safety Division (*Commandant (CG-5214)*) (+1-202-267-1444). Inquiries regarding lifeboats and rescue boats can be sent to Mr. George Grills at George.G.Grills@uscg.mil. Inquiries regarding davits and winches can be sent to Ms. Brandi Baldwin at Brandi.A.Baldwin@uscg.mil.

II. USCG Activities Europe will consider an approval for a production inspection request when:

- The manufacturer has submitted a request for inspection 30 days prior to the proposed inspection date.
- USCG Activities Europe is satisfied that provisions have been made for the inspection, testing and servicing of production line including inspection of manufacturer's quality control procedures.

III. Submission for Production Inspection Approval:

- By email to: acteurinspections@uscg.mil (preferred)

Visit us on the World Wide Web at www.uscg.mil/acteur/

- i. The subject line for an inspection request shall include:
Name of Facility + Lifesaving Inspection Request
(example: XYZ Lifeboat Co. + Lifesaving Inspection Request)
- By mail to:
Commanding Officer, USCG Activities Europe
Attn: Chief, Inspections Department
Lylantse Plein 1
2908 LH Capelle a/d IJssel, The Netherlands

IV. The submission must include:

- A copy of the Certificates of Approval issued by the USCG for the equipment being tested or inspected;
- A copy of all Standardized Life-Saving Appliance Evaluation and Tests Report Forms as per MSC/Circ.980 must be completed and submitted for the equipment being tested or inspected;
- A proposed inspection schedule of events for all tests and procedures including the estimated duration of the inspection visit;
- Three proposed, rank prioritized, dates for the inspection. If no rank priority is provided it will be concluded that any of the provided dates are equally acceptable to the business;
- Contact details of the production or servicing facility including name, mailing address, physical location (if different from the mailing address), primary and secondary points of contact, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses;
- Requisition information in respect to order destination (hull names and numbers);
- Any specification or information pertinent to help with the inspection and testing of the product for approval, and;
- A detailed description of the product(s) which is to be tested including the approval number and quantity.

V. USCG Activities Europe will:

- Review the submission and, provided the information is complete and compliant with the requirements set forth in the relevant sections of the Regulations, SOLAS, and within this advisory approval will be granted. Failure to submit a proper inspection application may result in a request denial or delay.
- Once approval is granted for inspection, an Activity Number will be assigned along with an inspection team. An Activity Number will serve as the reference number for each piece of equipment to be tested. All subsequent communications regarding a particular equipment inspection or certification should be referenced by Activity Number.
- The approval is granted only for the product(s) identified therein, and, only when such product(s) is manufactured in accordance with the relevant requirements of this standard, the Certificate of Approval, and every production line manufactures the product to the same standard as the approved prototype.

VI. Manufacturers are required to maintain records relating to the quality control and production tests carried out in accordance with the Regulations and LSA Code. Records include:

- Details of material purchased and used in the fabrication of the product;
- Date when production commenced and terminated, if production was not continuous;
- Test records of all components used in the production process;
- Records of all prototype tests including approved drawings and plans;
- Detailed description of any failures;
- Calibration reports for data collecting equipment (i.e. scales, time devices, etc.);
- Welders qualifications, and;
- Welding procedures.

These records are to be made available for review upon attendance by a USCG Marine Inspector.

VII. As partners in the marine safety industry, manufacturers and servicing operators are encouraged to submit feedback to USCG Activities Europe. Feedback pinpoints immediate concerns that affect partner relationships. As a result we are able to address issues immediately, before they become real problems. Surveys are available at USCG Activities' Europe Website: <http://www.uscg.mil/acteur/>

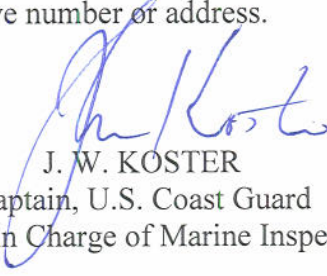
VIII. Additional guidance and information can be found at the links below:

Lifesaving and Fire Safety Division (*Commandant (CG-5214)*)
<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg5214/>

USCG Activities' Europe Website:
<http://www.uscg.mil/acteur/>

IMO MSC Circular 980:
http://www.imo.org/includes/blastDataOnly.asp/data_id%3D4697/980-HHo.sa.pdf

For additional information or clarification regarding this Marine Safety Bulletin, please contact Lieutenant Corydon Heard at the above number or address.


J. W. KOSTER
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Officer in Charge of Marine Inspection

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